

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the title at the top of page 1 with the following

--METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LOW-VISCOUS WATER-SOLUBLE
CELLULOSE ETHERS--

Please insert the following between lines 1 and 4 on page 1 of the specification.

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

The present patent application claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 and 35 U.S.C. 365 of International Application No. PCT/EP99/08779, filed 15 November 1999, which was published in German as International Patent Publication No. WO 00/32636 on 8 June 2000, which is entitled to the right of priority of German Patent Application No. 198 54 770.6, filed 27 November 1998.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

--METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LOW-VISCOUS WATER-SOLUBLE
CELLULOSE ETHERS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for preparing low-viscosity water-soluble cellulose ethers by the oxidative decomposition of higher-viscosity cellulose ethers with hydrogen peroxide is described. The process involves: (a) forming, under conditions of intensive mixing and at temperatures of 65 - 125°C, a mixture of, (i) one or more higher-viscosity cellulose ethers, and (ii) an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide, the proportions of the mixture being selected in such a way that the hydrogen peroxide content is 0.1 - 10 wt.% in relation to the dry cellulose ether, the solids content of the mixture is at least 25 wt.% in relation to the total weight of the mixture; and (b) agitating continuously the mixture of step (a) at temperatures of 65 - 125°C until at least approximately 90% of the hydrogen peroxide has been spent.--

A separate abstract page is included herewith